

# Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

## Final Rule: Farm Size Factsheet

[www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/RAP](http://www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/RAP)

Updated December 28, 2016



### What Farm Size are You?



#### Regulatory Authority

Municipal zoning may apply authority to Non-RAP Operations (NROs).

Can be required to follow the RAPs if adverse water quality impact exists

Agency of Agriculture, Food & Market (VAAFM) regulates RAP Small Farm Operations (SFOs).

MUST follow RAPs.

VAAFM regulates Certified SFOs.

Farm needs to ANNUALLY Self-Certify

-AND -

MUST follow RAPs.

VAAFM regulates MFOs.

Farm needs a MFO General Permit with Annual Report

- AND -

MUST follow permit and RAPs.

VAAFM regulates LFOs.

Farm needs a LFO Individual Permit with Annual Reporting

- AND -

MUST follow permit and RAPs.

#### Size of Farm

##### Non-RAP Operations (NRO)



##### RAP Small Farm Operations (SFO)



##### Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFO)



##### Permitted Medium Farm Operations (MFO)



##### Permitted Large Farm Operations (LFO)



#### Requirements Needed to Meet Farm Type

Operates LESS THAN 4 acres used for farming

- OR -

Operates LESS THAN 4 acres & has animal numbers below RAP Farm Threshold (Ex 1-4 cows; 1-3 horses)

- OR -

Makes LESS THAN \$2,000 Annual Gross Income AND did NOT file a 1040F once in the last 2 years.

Operates 4+ acres used for farming

- OR -

Regardless of acreage, any farming operation that makes more than \$2,000 Annual Gross Income or has filed a 1040F once in the last 2 years.

- OR -

Has an Approved Business Management Plan

Operates 10+ acres used for farming

- AND one of the following categories: -

Livestock Farm: Example: 50 - 199 Dairy Cows  
or 75 - 300 Beef Cows  
or 40 - 150 Horses  
or 90,000# Liveweight

- OR -

Annual Crop Farm: 50+ acres used for growing Annual Crops (Ex: Feed Corn; Sweet Corn; Pumpkins; Soybeans)

- OR -

Vegetable Farm: 50+ acres used for growing Vegetables

Meets Animal Numbers for MFO

Example: 200-699 Dairy Cows  
or 300-999 Beef Cows  
or 150-499 Horses  
or 3,000 to 9,999 Sheep

Meets Animal Numbers for LFO

Example: 700+ Dairy Cows  
or 1000+ Beef Cows  
or 500+ Horses  
or 10,000+ Sheep

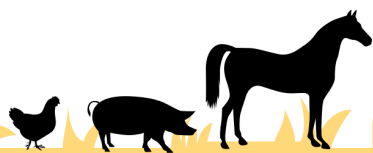
To learn more about the Proposed Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), visit: [www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/RAP](http://www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/RAP)



VERMONT  
AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

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### What Trainings and Certifications Will You Need?



#### SMALL FARM CERTIFICATION



#### FARM OPERATOR TRAINING



#### CUSTOM APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

#### Who Needs It?

All farms meeting the Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO) definition will certify that the farm is in compliance with all Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).

Training will be for all Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFOs), Medium Farm Operations (MFOs), and Large Farm Operations (LFOs).

Certification is required by a person who is engaged in the business of applying manure or other nutrients to land, except commercial fertilizer, and who charges or collects other consideration for the service.

#### What information will be provided?

- Understand and comply with all Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).
- A change in ownership or lease of a Certified Small Farm Operation requires notification within 30 days to the Secretary.
- Options for meeting training requirements of the Farm Operator Training.

- Regulatory requirements of farm operations and financial assistance available to meet requirements.
- Prevention of discharges.
- Methods and techniques used to minimize nutrient runoff.
- Management of stormwater runoff.
- Knowledge of weather & soil conditions that increase risk of runoff.
- Understand the value of following Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs).

- Will learn and must demonstrate knowledge of Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), applicable MFO or LFO permit requirements, and NRCS 590 Nutrient Management and nutrient application standards.
- Will learn and must demonstrate competency in methods and techniques to ensure appropriate nutrient application in compliance with environmental standards.
- Be able to train all employees and seasonal workers in methods and techniques to meet RAPs and NMP nutrient application standards.

#### How Often?

Shall certify annually and shall be inspected within 7 years of initial certification.

Shall obtain 4 hours of approved training every 5 years.  
Get credit for attending existing field days

Certification shall be valid for 5 years.  
Shall obtain 8 hours of approved training in every 5 year period.

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